



Terry Buck: Chairman, Team Manager 65+  
 Peter Osborne: Secretary, Joint Team Manager 60+  
 Gary Murphy: Kit Manager, Joint Team Manager 50+, 60+  
 Mark Elnaugh: Treasurer, Joint Team Manager 50+  
 Chris Jullings: Social Secretary  
 Bob Willis: Committee Member  
 Gerry Howard: Welfare Officer

### CHELMSFORD CITY WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB NEWSLETTER, No.16

**DEC 2018**

Welcome to Newsletter No17.

Well the dizziness of being Essex League over 60' champions has slowly worn off and we are now in the closed league season, but there is still lots going on!!

In this edition we have another 'Player Profile', 'Chris' Corner' arrives in the trenches and the 'Footie Quiz' is here again. There is also a report on the Prostate Cancer Tournament and a piece on wishing some of our injured players well.

Just to say that there won't be a newsletter in January (there won't be much to say), the next one will be in February.

As always I hope you enjoy the read, have a great Xmas and here's to lots of successful and enjoyable footie in 2019!!

### FORTHCOMING FIXTURES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	VENUE	TIME	EVENT	VERSUS
Tuesday 29th January	Melbourne 3G	9.30 for 10.00	Club mini tournament	Various
Tuesday 26th February	Melbourne 3G	9.30 for 10.00	Club mini tournament	Various

Unless otherwise advised please arrive at the venue at least 30 minutes prior to kick-off to allow for registration, changing etc. In the event that you are unable to play in any match that you have been selected for, please make sure you notify your team manager without delay. Referees are instructed that anyone not wearing shin-pads will not be allowed to play. As always, please check on our website <http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/teams/136556> for further information on the above fixtures.



## RECENT MATCHES

### **Mini Tournaments - 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

Thanks to Mark for taking the lead on organising the mini-tournaments.

The first on the 13<sup>th</sup> November was a very enjoyable internal competition between 4 well - balanced mixed aged sides.

The second saw us opening up the mini – tournament to 3 outside teams from Norwich, Blackmore and Romford. Chelmsford also entered 3 mixed aged teams. There were some very close tussles with each team playing 5 x 18min games.

Blackmore eventually prevailed as winners in what proved to be a very enjoyable morning rounded off with some chat, a drink and a very good chilli con carne!!

### **Essex Prostate Cancer Trophy - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018**



Prostate cancer mainly affects men over 50 and the risk increases with age. The average age for men to be diagnosed with prostate cancer is between 65 and 69 years. One in eight men will contract prostate cancer, so it is imperative that we in the walking football community help and support this very important charity.

The club has already raised £400, but as always we are at the fore of making more things happen!

The club arranged and hosted the Essex Prostate Cancer Trophy tournament.

Nine clubs entered sides and were placed in 2 groups; the top 2 from each group would play in the semi –finals.

Chelmsford City were grouped with Southend, Leyton Orient, Concord and Grays

Chelmsford had a strong side out, but sadly Spencer missed out on playing through an eye injury. The first game against Southend set the tone for things to come. There was some lovely expansive football, but Chelmsford just weren't clinical enough in their finishing resulting in a 0-0 draw. Next up were the tougher Leyton Orient, again Chelmsford created a lot of control and seldom looked in danger of conceding, but they couldn't get the ball in the net, another 0-0 draw.

Chelmsford started the game against Concord much brighter and took the lead but over - confidence meant that they left themselves exposed at the back and got undone by an unexpected break away equaliser, final score 1-1.

The final game was a must win game against a fairly strong Grays side. Grays scored a goal at the near post leaving Chelmsford staring defeat in the face, but this time strong play from Chelmsford got it back to 1-1.

Unbeaten on the day, but getting 4 draws was not enough to see Chelmsford progress to the semi finals.

The eventual winners were Eastwood Falcons who beat Clacton Knights 1-0 in the final. Congratulations!



## OTHER NEWS

### **Social activities**

The feedback on our Quiz night / celebration was excellent and we have agreed at the committee that we will make this an annual November event so that we can continue to have an end of season celebration. We will probably alternate a quiz night with other entertainment such as a race night (or something similar).

### **Spring event / Gunrunner**

I have been talking to Spencer about the idea of arranging for his band Gunrunner to do a gig at the Chelmsford City Club. We are exploring this and are aiming for something around springtime.

### **Foot Golf – Feb /Mar**

We had some plans for a foot golf outing at Brentwood in the autumn. I now have 8 names and will be looking to make this happen in the early spring.

### **Alan Scott memorial game / tournament**

Just to let you know that we haven't forgotten Alan's memorial game. We have been considering timing, taking into account the readiness of the family to participate and an appropriate slot in our season's calendar. There will be more news on this in due course.

### **England action**

Red Neighbours' walking football team recently welcomed the England walking football squad to Liverpool.



The teams met at Red Neighbours' regular playing ground in Anfield. It was a close fought game with a last-minute goal from England seeing them edge a 2-1 victory over the locals. Our own Spencer Pratten is seen here in full stride bearing down on the reds goal.



Former Liverpool left-back Alan Kennedy – a familiar face at both the Red Neighbours and England sessions – headed down to show his support as well as joining the national team for the game.

### **Wishing folks well**

From time to time we all get an injury or just feel under the weather.

We are sorry that Chas has been out with a niggle and hope to see him back in January! (we are missing your goal-scoring prowess).

It was great to see Geoff at the mini tournament, thanks for helping out. We know you are struggling with your knee. The gloves are waiting for you.

'Big Dave' has taken a while to recover from the knock he got, but great to see him at the mini tournament supporting the lads. Hope to see you in your boots again soon.

Great to see Dave R back kicking a ball at training. We know that Dave is having to take it a step at a time, but encouraging to see you playing.

It's also good to see Paul back to full fitness and Steve (pretending to be a goalkeeper ☺) making good progress.

Finally, we are pleased to see Spencer back kicking a ball after the scare with his eye injury (although some of the goalkeepers might not agree!!!! ☺)

Hopefully I haven't missed anyone.

The important thing to remember is that we are all members of the club (fit or not) and we are there to support each other. If you are out with an injury or under the weather, stay in touch, pop along to training for a chat, or volunteer to help out on something to make sure you stay connected.

It's more than kicking a ball about.

## PLAYER PROFILE

In this edition we profile **Bob Willis**

Bob Willis was born in Chelmsford in 1953



Bob readily admits that he doesn't have the footballing pedigree that many of his Chelmsford City Walking Football teammates have.

His first selection to play for the school team, Moulsham, was based on kicking the ball to his PE teacher once across the width of a pitch and being the only one happy to head the ball in defence amongst the other 19 outfield players.

Bob thinks his love of heading the ball goes a long way to explaining the wear and tear on his forehead and the resulting shiny head. In his first game against Great Baddow he remembers a great tussle with their 6-foot centre forward, but despite their difference in size Bob tapped away at his ankles and won the day (a technique he employs to this day!!)



Bob has played, lived and worked in Chelmsford all his life turning out for Old Chelmsfordians and British Telecom (which was also called Autel).

He particularly enjoyed playing Saturday football which he felt was always the better standard of football (presumably because the games came before the pub on Saturday night whereas the Sunday games.....). Bob did play with a few Sunday pub teams, but recalls that was in the days when it was all about kicking and not just the ball.

Bob's most memorable footballing achievement was playing in a final for Old Chelmsfordians in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Team, which he says was a little above his skill level but apparently they were short of defenders (and blokes with shiny heads!).

The game was great but there was a little bit of disappointment about the venue. They were supposed to play at Chelmsford City's ground but at short notice City needed the pitch for a replay so Bob ended up playing at Baddow Wreck. (well it's still got a CM postcode!!). Clearly all a bit of an anti-climax for Bob's team.

Bob has only had two injuries in his playing career, a broken thumb and a small crack in his skull.

When Bob was at hospital in the 80's (with lots of blood pouring from his head) he was lying down in A&E only to hear two nurses chatting, "Do you know how this scanner works, no let's look at the manual" – all a bit worrying!! Fortunately it all turned out for the best and his wife Joanne has only had to see the more minor finger injury.

Bob has run his own training and consultancy business for the last 30 years travelling worldwide running theory and hands on training in electronics manufacturing. He still sells his services and products on line [www.bobwillis.co.uk](http://www.bobwillis.co.uk) but he is quick to point out that most people can find answers online for themselves these days.

Bob has been a part of Chelmsford Walking Football right from the outset. He has not only made a great contribution on the pitch (although he readily admits he is playing with a number of folks 'above his pay grade'), he also has done a great job off the pitch videoing games, producing training videos and working as a part of the committee.

Bob's ambition is to play walking football into his 70's (presumably that means promotion from the youth team!!).

**Next month's player profile: Peter Osborne**

### **FOOTIE QUIZ**

Another chance to test your footie knowledge. The answers are at the very end of the newsletter (no cheating and taking a peak before you get started!!!)

1. Which club did Steve McClaren manage before taking over the England managers' job after the 2006 World Cup?
2. Which player scored 30 goals for England in 33 games between 1950 and 1958?
3. Which Arsenal player was voted 'Player of the Year' in 1998?
4. In 1996 Celtic signed a player from AC Milan, he would later go on to play for West Ham, what is his name?
5. Which defender scored England's first goal in the 'new Wembley' in the 1-1 draw with Brazil in 2007?
6. Can you name the Tower that appears on the Everton club crest?
7. Which Liverpool players won the European Footballer of the Year award in 2001?

8. In 2004 Walsall appointed which former 'Gunner' as their boss?

9. What did Manchester United do for the first time in 1909?

10. Kevin Keegan replaced whom when he became manager of Newcastle United in 1992?

### **I'M KNACKERED IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE ? – recommendations for sport injuries help**

This is where club members recommend people they have successfully used to help them get over sports injuries and niggles.

**Sam Robinson** (Sports injuries /rehabilitation)

3 Navigation Road, (at the back of Runactive)  
Chelmsford,  
CM2 6HX  
07587054854

Recommended by Spence; Chris; Paul; Steve; John; Chas.

**Paul Irvine** (Chiropractor)

Complete Chiropractic  
88 Broomfield Road  
Chelmsford  
CM11SS  
01245358742

Recommended by Tony E

### **CHRIS' CORNER**

This month I have been reflecting on the time of the year and this year's poignant centennial tributes marking the end of the First World War. I'm sure many of us agree that the trench warfare of 100 years ago was horrific and futile. It was humanity (or inhumanity) at its worst.

In 1914 thousands of young men rushed in the summer sun to sign up. By the autumn many were dug in on the Western Front in Belgium and France. The Western Front was 425 miles of trenches and home to more than 100,000 allied troops.

The early optimism and belief 'that it will all be over by Christmas' soon changed as the reality of war became inescapable. The reality of the weather was also inescapable, with deep trenches filled with water creating cold and squalid conditions.

Yet in this futility, in this place of fading hope there is a story so remarkable that for a few days the madness evaporated.

It is the story of a football match.

The place is a small hamlet in Southern Belgium called St Yves or to be more precise a place the British called Plug Street Wood. It had been a cold and cruel December, with bitter frosts, starry nights and frozen ground.

It was Christmas Eve 1914 and the guns on both sides had fallen silent. The trenches were close enough for both sides to hear each other singing carols. A calm settled over the trenches. Captain Robert Hamilton and a fellow British officer somehow arranged a local 48-hour armistice.

Early on Christmas Day friend and foe started to spontaneously drift out into No Mans Land.

A mass trade of tobacco, chocolate, schnapps, bully beef and cigars soon started.

The mood was cautious but very friendly and then a couple of the British lads brought out a football, although some accounts talk about it being a sandbag or ration tin.

It quickly turned into a football match, although it is hard to imagine how easy it would have been to play on a frozen No Mans Land strewn with dead bodies and craters.



The game probably resembled an impromptu school playground match, with tin helmets for goal posts and a lot of people chasing the ball. Whilst we eventually won the war, sadly the Germans won the football match 3-2.

The good news is that we didn't lose on penalties.

Apparently the armistice broke out along the length of the Western Front and lasted until the 7<sup>th</sup> January.

There are reports of football matches up and down the line.

The Generals were furious that this friendliness had broken out and were fearful that thousands of soldiers on both sides would just shake hands and go home. It quickly became a court martial offence for any repeat of the armistice.

It led me to reflect on the power of football.



In the darkest moments, in appalling conditions, amidst the atrocities of war, football provided the commonality to put aside the killing and find the spirit of Christmas.

It is remarkable that despite all the differences that existed between these men, locked deep within many of them was the passion for the beautiful game, a passion so universal, so powerful that it could help them forget (for a few days at least) that they were there to kill each other.

It is a wonderful game and as we all know, is so much more than kicking a ball about.

Having said all of that, the German' third goal definitely never crossed the line and where the hell is a Russian linesman when you need one!! – Merry Xmas!

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## USEFUL LINKS

Chelmsford City Walking FC:	<a href="http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/teams/136556">http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/teams/136556</a>
Essex Walking Football League:	<a href="https://www.essexwalkingfootballleague.org/">https://www.essexwalkingfootballleague.org/</a>
Chelmsford City FC:	<a href="http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/">http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/</a>
WFA	<a href="https://thewfa.co.uk">https://thewfa.co.uk</a>
FA WF league Fixtures and Results	<a href="http://fulltime-league.thefa.com">http://fulltime-league.thefa.com</a>
Walking Football United:	<a href="http://www.walkingfootballunited.co.uk/">http://www.walkingfootballunited.co.uk/</a>

## Answers to the Footie Quiz

- 1.Middlesborough
- 2.Nat Lofthouse
- 3.Dennis Bergkamp
- 4.Paulo Di Canio
- 5.John Terry
- 6.St Ruperts Tower
- 7.Michael Owen
- 8.Paul Merson
- 9.They won the FA Cup (beating Bristol City 1-0)
- 10.Ossie Ardiles.